

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel Claims 13 and 26.

Please amend the claims as follows:

C1  
Sub D1  
C2  
1. (Twice Amended) A substantially water-free thermoplastic article consisting essentially of from about 50 to about 99% by weight of an unmodified polyvinyl alcohol and from about <sup>50</sup>~~49~~ to about 1% by weight of a thermoplastic elastomer.

16  
17. (Twice Amended) A thermoplastic article consisting essentially of from about 50 to about 99% by weight of an unmodified polyvinyl alcohol and from about <sup>50</sup>~~49~~ to about 1% by weight of a thermoplastic elastomer, wherein the thermoplastic article has less than about 2.0 percent by weight of water.

28  
30  
C3  
30. (Twice Amended) A substantially water-free blend composition consisting essentially of from about 50 to about 99% by weight of an unmodified polyvinyl alcohol and from about <sup>50</sup>~~49~~ to about 1% by weight of a thermoplastic elastomer.